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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5309
INFO RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3491

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/21/88 (WHITING, JOHN D.) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, DR, OVIP (BARNES, MICHAEL D.)
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CODEL BARNES VISIT

REF: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 3343 (DTG 151705Z MAY 82);
(B) SANTO DOMINGO 3348 (DTG 152257Z MAY 82).
(C) SANTO DOMINGO 3346 (DTG 152255Z MAY 82)

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. BEGIN SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL BARNES'S AND BARNES SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR VICTO JOHNSON'S MAY 14-17 VISIT TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND PRESENCE HERE DURING THE MAY 16 NATIONAL ELECTIONS, WITH THE CONCURRENT VISIT OF USOAS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE, ALBERTO PIEDRA AND HELMS LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT JOHN CARBAUGH, CONSTITUTED A VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF US INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE CARIBBEAN'S LARGEST, BUT STILL INFANT, DEMOCRACY. THE MAJOR THEM EXPRESSED BY CODEL'S DOMINICAN INTERLOCUTORS WAS THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THEIR DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE US. END SUMMARY.

3. DURING THEIR VISIT CODEL, ALONG WITH USOAS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE ALBERTO PIEDRA AND JOHN CARBAUGH OF SENATOR HELM'S STAFF, MET WITH PRESIDENT ANTONIO GUZMAN (REF A), GOVERNING DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SALVADOR JORGE BLANCO (REF B), AND REFORMISTA PARTY (PR) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE EX-.043853,5 '9-178, ?-) GUER (REF C). HAROLD WOLFF, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, AND KEITH HALLER, CENTER FOR A NATIONAL POLICY, ATTENDED THE MEETINGS WITH JORGE BLANCO AND BALAGUER. THE THREE DOMINICAN LEADERS ALL EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, AND BOTH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES STATED THEIR DESIRE FOR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US.

4. ON ELECTION DAY, CODEL VISITED POLLING PLACES IN SANTO DOMINGO, SAN CRISTOBAL AND EN ROUTE, SPEAKING INFORMALLY TO VOTERS AND OBSERVING THE PROCESS ITSELF. LATER IN THE EVENING, CODEL VISITED USICA'S PRESS CENTER, AND CALLED AT PRD PARTY HEADQUARTERS. MEETING BRIEFLY WITH PARTY PRESIDENT IVELISSE PRATS DE PEREZ, SUBSECRETARY GENERAL WINSTON ARNAUD AND JORGE BLANCO CAMPAIGN PRESS SPOKESMAN JUAN JOSE ENCARNACION. AT THE REFORMISTA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, CODEL MET WITH CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE AND FORMER SANTO DOMINGO MAYOR JUAN RAFAEL "PAPI" ESTRELLA ROJAS AND CURRENT MAYORAL CANDIDATE GUARIONEX LLUBERES

State Dept. review completed

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MONTAS. CODEL CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JCE) AND WAS GIVEN A TOUR OF THE VOTE REPORTING AND COMPUTER FACILITY BY JCE PRESIDENT DR. MANUEL GARCIA LIZARDO. CODEL INDICATED TO ALL THEIR INTEREST IN THE DOMINICAN ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE WILLINGNESS OF CONGRESS TO WORK WITH A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT FOR THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE PROGRESS.

5. MEDIA COVERAGE OF CODEL, THOUGH SUBSUMED BY THE ELECTIONS, WAS FAVORABLE. CHAIRMAN BARNES RESTATED US INTEREST IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S ELECTORAL PROCESS AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND COMMENTED ON THE IMPRESSIVE (74 PERCENT) VOTER TURNOUT TO DOMINICAN MEDIA.

YOST

END OF MESSAGE

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